

United States. These Americans have contributed significantly to our social fabric, making notable contributions as medical professionals, Nobel Laureate scientists, business owners, human rights activists, and teachers.

While it is important to recognize the achievements of Taiwanese-Americans in the United States, Taiwanese-American Heritage Week also gives us the opportunity to celebrate the success of democracy in Taiwan. Since the lifting of martial law in 1987, Taiwan has made consistent strides toward becoming an open, democratic society where freedoms are respected and the will of the people is observed. To the credit of the many Taiwanese-Americans who fought to bring democratic principles back to the island, Taiwan is now a vibrant democratic member of the international community.

With the recent election of opposition leader Chen Shui-bian as President, Taiwan has again reaffirmed its commitment to the open electoral process that is the cornerstone of democracy. While this election bodes well for the future of a democratic Taiwan, many challenges remain. Taiwan must continue to resist internal anti-democratic forces, while also providing for its own security in a region with too few democratic neighbors. However, I am confident that Taiwan will meet these challenges and continue to play a productive role in the international community.

Mr. President, Taiwanese-American Heritage Week properly recognizes the longstanding friendship between the United States and Taiwan. Once again, I commend the accomplishments and on-going contributions of the Taiwanese-American community.●

RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ERUPTION OF MT. ST. HELENS

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I take the floor today to commemorate one of the most significant events in the history of my state—the eruption of Mt. St. Helens. On the 18th of May, 1980, Mt. St. Helens exploded with the force of a 24-megaton atomic bomb, scorching 230 square miles of picturesque Northwest landscape and triggered the largest known landslide in history, traveling at nearly 200 mph to bury Spirit Lake and the Toutle River. Tragically, fifty-seven men and women lost their lives, over 200 homes and 180 miles of road were destroyed and caused \$3 billion in damages.

Since that horrific day, the great people of Washington state began the long road to recovery. Today, I would like to recognize the astounding efforts of thousands of volunteers and donations from countless companies that have succeeded in making Mt. St. Helens a place where trees are growing at record speeds and animals are beginning to thrive in their new home.

Mt. St. Helens is now a place where tens of thousands of visitors flock

every year from around the globe to witness both the violent and healing powers of nature. Local residents devastated by the eruption have transformed their communities and now look to Mt. St. Helens to attract visitors and contribute to the local economy.

There is still, however, an enormous amount of work to be done to help Mt. St. Helens and the surrounding areas continue on this path to recovery. The local communities' dedication to rebuilding infrastructure and ecosystems, the creation of a renowned research facility, and the construction of a world-class tourist attraction have demonstrated the highest degree of responsiveness and resourcefulness.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Forest Service for their achievements and commitment in bringing Mt. St. Helens back to life.

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, and a member of the Mt. St. Helens Institute Advisory Board, I am deeply committed to helping Mt. St. Helens make the best possible recovery and to finding federal dollars to keep Mt. St. Helens accessible and enjoyable for all visitors and to assist the surrounding communities in finding solutions to their many challenges.

I am confident that in the next twenty years the people of the Northwest will make even greater strides in reviving the beauty of Mt. St. Helens, making Washington state an even greater place to live.●

REFLECTIONS ON THE BOZEMAN DRUG COURT

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the innovative work of the Drug Treatment Court in Gallatin County, Montana.

Recently I worked for a day at the Drug Court, where I witnessed the process of evaluating drug court cases and determining who was following the rules—and who was not.

I must say, Mr. President, I was very impressed and inspired by the whole process—Judge Olson, his staff, the prosecutors, defense attorneys, parole and probation officer, counselors. And, most important of all, the people who have voluntarily decided to turn their lives around. This pilot project in Bozeman, Montana should be replicated around the state and nation.

In the morning, I sat in on the briefing, where judges and all the parties involved in sanctioning defendants discussed—with compassion and sometimes frustration—their attempts to help these people get off and stay off of drugs and alcohol.

Their discussions centered not on punishment, but on finding common-sense ways to help these people addicted to drugs and alcohol find ways to improve their lives and be positive contributors to their communities.

And, sitting later in court, I saw the genuine and sincere attempts of the defendants to correct their lives and stay out of jail.

Judge Olson was remarkable. He mixed just the right amount of compassion with tough love to help the defendants.

He counseled them, warned them, caajoled them, and told them he personally would help them find jobs so they could stay "clean." His work is to be highly commended and copied throughout Montana.

The defendants also showed that they can beat drugs and alcohol. One middle-aged man told me later that the Treatment Court was the best thing that ever happened in his life. He had become clean for the first time in 30 years. He owed his life to the Treatment Court. Now he is trying to find ways to help other people.

The Treatment Court is a success story waiting to be copied. It is a way to keep people out of jail, off the streets and in a job.

Yes, some people slip up and don't abide by the rules. When they do, Judge Olson cracks down on them. But when they succeed, Judge Olson praises them, and shakes their hand.

His personal involvement in the lives of these people shows that justice does know compassion, that courts can be places where people headed for jail can make a detour—and be given a chance to redirect their lives. Mr. President, I want to say that I was inspired by what I saw last Friday in Treatment Court in Bozeman. And I want to help to find funding for the Bozeman Treatment Court, as well as funding for similar courts throughout Montana.

Such an investment in people—in helping them become positive citizens in their communities rather than burdens—will save us money—and lives—in the long run.

And I will also work hard to help the Treatment Court find funds to help defendants locate affordable housing, get a good education and good jobs. What struck me, Mr. President, was that many of the defendants suffered from a lack of education. My work day in Treatment Court reminded of the importance and power of education, as well as the importance of creating good-paying jobs.

Along with families, they are the building blocks of a strong and health society, and help keep people off drugs and alcohol.

Count me a supporter of this successful program.

The treatment court idea embodies steps crucial to curbing the influence of drugs on our society.

Nationally, such treatment courts are a relatively new idea. The first drug courts were created in Florida in 1989, under the supervision of Janet Reno.

She and others realized that the solution to the rising number of drug related cases was not to increase the capacity of the criminal justice system—but to reduce the number of drug users.